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AKU NO KYOUTEN

by KISHI Yuusuke & KARASUYAMA Eiji

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Aku no Kyouten v4 c12

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I'VE DONE SOME RESEARCH, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS REIKA.
THIS IS PROBABLY IT, RIGHT?
ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, TWO YEARS AGO FROM THE SPRING PERIOD UNTIL FALL,
A TOTAL OF FOUR STUDENTS DIED, TWO BOYS AND TWO GIRLS
High School Copycat Suicides Shrouded in Mystery
AT ××× METROPOLITAN HIGH. HASUMI'S PREVIOUS WORK-PLACE, THERE WERE.
A STRING OF SUICIDES.

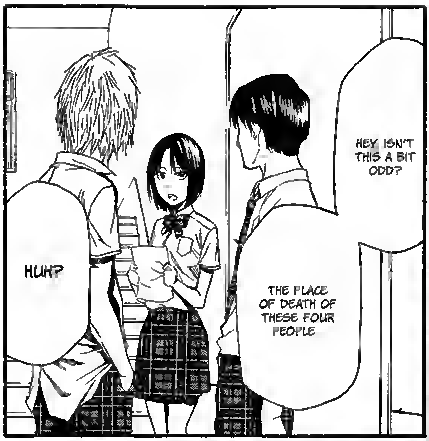
Lesson of the evil
悪の教典
Lesson12
New Edition Mathematics II

THIS IS WHAT'S CALLED THE WERTHER EFFECT, ISN'T IT?
AH- I'M SURE IT'S SOME SORT OF PSYCHOLOGY TERM.
SOMETHING TO DO WITH A LINK BETWEEN SUICIDES THAT HAPPEN RIGHT AFTER ONE ANOTHER
ANYWAY WHO EVEN WAS THIS WERTHER PERSON?
WERTHER COMES FROM THE PROTAGONIST OF GOETHE'S NOVEL, "THE SORROWS OF YOUNG WERTHER"
WASN'T SHE PETER PAN'S GIRLFRIEND?
I THOUGHT THAT WAS WENDY
KEISUKE.

WAS "THE SORROWS OF YOUNG WERTHER" A STORY ABOUT A CHAIN OF SUICIDES?
NO, IT WAS JUST A LOVE STORY
OH. THANKS.
?
IN ITS TIME, IT WAS A BEST SELLER.
BASICALLY, WERTHER HAS HIS HEART BROKEN AND EVENTUALLY ENDS UP KILLING HIMSELF
AND BECAUSE OF HOW INFLUENTIAL IT WAS IT APPARENTLY CAUSED SUICIDE RATES TO SUDDENLY INCREASE

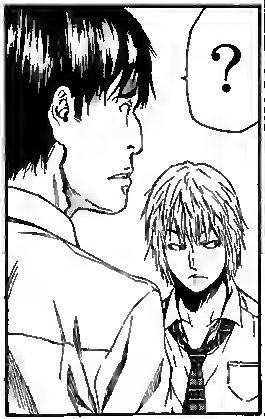
THERE'S MORE IN THIS ARTICLE,
ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO, AN IDOL KILLED HERSELF BY JUMPING OFF A BUILDING.
AFTER THAT FANS JUMPED TO THEIR DEATHS TOO ONE AFTER ANOTHER
OHHH I'VE HEARD OF THAT CASE
I SAW SOMETHING ABOUT IT ONLINE
IT SAID THAT BECAUSE OF ALL THE MEDIA COVERAGE,
IT LED TO A FURTHER INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SUICIDES
BUT...FOUR DEATHS REALLY IS A LOT.
PLUS THEY ALL HAPPENED WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF EACH OTHER
TWO BY HANGING, ONE BY JUMPING, AND ONE FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING.
IF IT WERE TODAY THEY'D PROBABLY HAVE USED HYDROGEN SULFIDE? OR SOMETHING.

T/N: THE CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING DEATH WAS FROM BURNING COAL OR CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE (THE TERM USED IS "BRIQUETTE SUICIDE"). MAKING HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS TO PRODUCE HYDROGEN SULFIDE HAS RECENTLY BECOME A MORE POPULAR SUICIDE METHOD

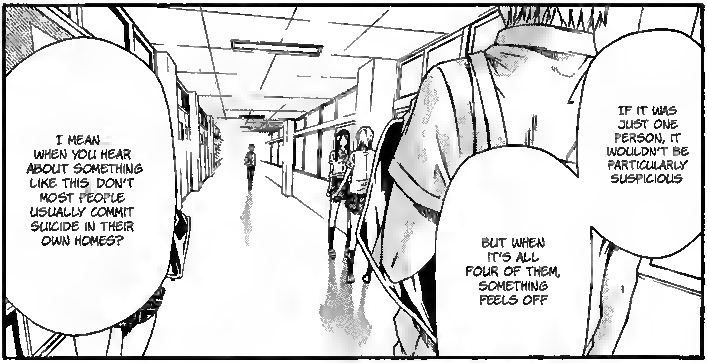

HEY, ISN'T THIS A BIT ODD?
THE PLACE OF DEATH OF THESE FOUR PEOPLE
HUH?

WHERE'D THE PERSON JUMP FROM?
WASN'T IT FROM THE SCHOOL ROOF OR SOMETHING?

PLACE OF DEATH?
WHAT'S WEIRD ABOUT IT?


?

They all died at school.


I MEAN WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS DON'T MOST PEOPLE USUALLY COMMIT SUICIDE IN THEIR OWN HOMES?
IF IT WAS JUST ONE PERSON, IT WOULDN'T BE PARTICULARLY SUSPICIOUS
BUT WHEN IT'S ALL FOUR OF THEM, SOMETHING FEELS OFF

THERE MUST BE A REASON WHY IT HAPPENED THERE. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.
FOUR PEOPLE KILLING THEMSELVES AT SCHOOL ONE AFTER ANOTHER IS TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE.

I KNOW SOMEONE AT *** METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL
I'LL TRY FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S MORE TO THIS STORY THAN JUST A COINCIDENTAL STRING OF SUICIDE DEATHS
REIKA, I THINK YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING.
COME ON NOW, YOU TOO KEISUKE?

I THINK I CAN GET SOMETHING BY THE END OF SCHOOL.
WELL, SEE YOU LATER.
REIKA, YOU'RE GETTING PARANOID
YOU CAN'T JUST JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS WHENEVER HASUMI'S INVOLVE-
Huh?
MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY TO INVESTIGATE AS WELL
I DON'T KNOW YET, BUT..
INVESTIGATE WHAT? HOW?

Yuuichirou-!
EH?
WHAT'S WRONG REIKA?
!?
IT'S TSURII!

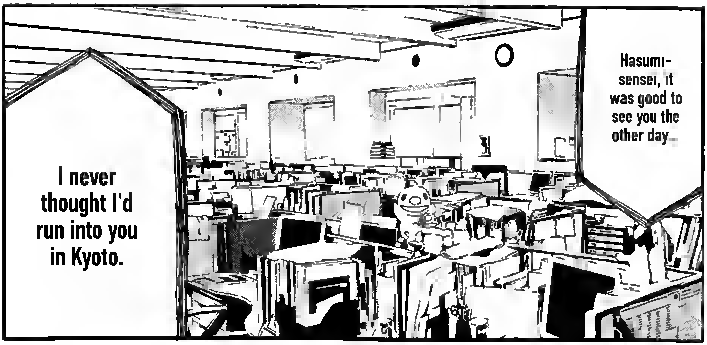
DO YOU THINK HE HEARD US TALKING?
PROBABLY...
Ding Dong Ding Dong
Ding Dong Ding Dong
OF ALL THE PEOPLE...
HE'S THE LAST PERSON I WOULDVE WANTED OVER-HEARING US...

IF THEY WANT TO MAKE TROUBLE, LET THEM.
WHEN THEY GO TOO FAR, JUST LIKE THAT BRAT BACK THEN, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF GETTING SOMEONE TO GET RID OF THEM.
THESE DAMN KIDS...
YAMMERING ON ABOUT SOMETHING, JUST LIKE ALWAYS. THEY NEVER SHUT UP.

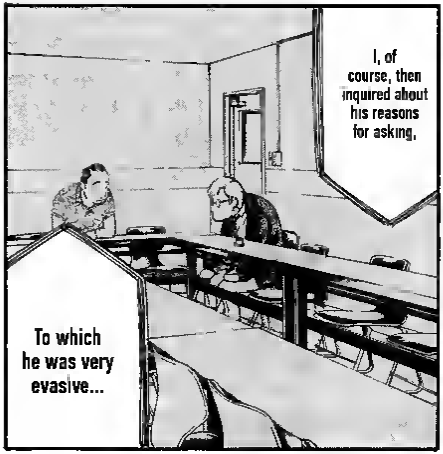
SOMETHING'S ODD...
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT SPOOKED HER LIKE THAT?
BUT, EVEN SO...
THAT'S RIGHT, IT MUST BE HER...

YES...
SHE'S THE GIRL FROM BACK THEN.
HER NAME...
I THINK IT WAS KATAGIRI.
SHE'S DEFINITELY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER BRATS.
IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S BEEN WARY OF ME FOR A WHILE NOW.
WHY WAS SHE LOOKING AT ME BACK THEN?
AND WHY WAS SHE INVESTIGATING *** METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL NOW, OF ALL TIMES?
IF SHE'S INVOLVED HERSELF IN SOMETHING SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE,

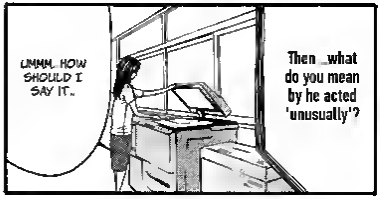
EVEN I DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.


I never thought I'd run into you in Kyoto.
Hasumi-sensei, it was good to see you the other day.

THE TRUTH IS, YESTERDAY A TEACHER FROM YOUR SCHOOL CAME TO SEE ME.
BUT HIS BEHAVIOR WAS SOMEWHAT... UNUSUAL, YOU MIGHT SAY...
SO I'M RELIEVED TO SEE THAT YOU'RE DOING WELL.
YES, RECENTLY I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THINGS.
YES?
I was unsure whether I should call you, but, well...
It was Tsurii-sensei.
He was asking about the details involving that incident...
WHAT WAS THIS TEACHER'S NAME?


I, of course, then inquired about his reasons for asking.
To which he was very evasive...

ANYWAY, THE SUBJECT WAS ABOUT THE SUICIDE INCIDENT
WHICH ISN'T SOMETHING TO BE DISCUSSED LIGHTLY

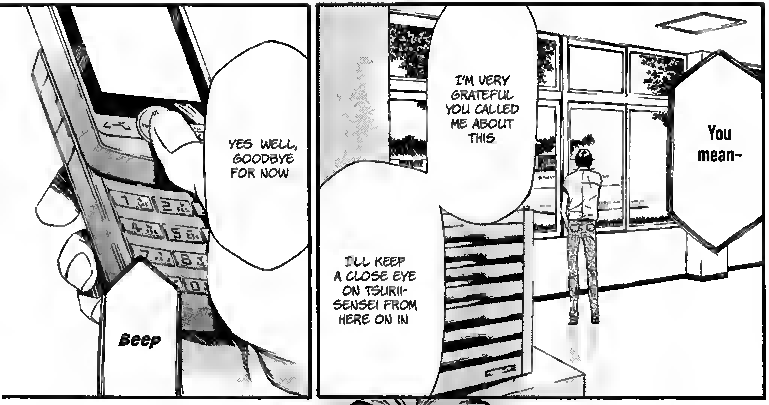

UMMM. HOW SHOULD I SAY IT..
Then ...what do you mean by he acted 'unusually'?

I GOT THE FEELING HE WAS QUITE... DEPRESSED
EVEN THOUGH HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO COME VISIT, AT TIMES, IT SEEMED LIKE HIS MIND WAS PRE-OCCUPIED WITH SOMETHING ELSE
3

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
WHY'S THAT DECREPIT OLD CORPSE STICKING HIS NOSE IN?

NO, IT'S NOTHING.
AFTER ALL, YOU'VE DONE A LOT FOR US
I see.
I apologize for the bother.
Is this some sort of threat... or perhaps he's trying to go up against me?
Well, considering that I've now found out about his little visit
He's blatantly crossing the line...
This calls for an immediate surgical strike.

A FEW YEARS AGO, HIS WIFE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED
EVER SINCE THEN, HE'S BEEN RELIANT ON DAILY MEDICATION
TSURII-SENSEI IS MENTALLY UNWELL, YOU SEE
Sagee-sensei, please do what you can to keep this matter quiet.
IF.. IF YOU SAY SO
FOR TSURII-SENSEI, TEACHING IS THE ONLY THING KEEPING HIM GOING.
HOWEVER, EVEN THIS
Wouldn't it be better for him to take some time off?
I'm not one to pry into the affairs of others.
... been showing an abnormal curiosity towards suicide.
Well, you see, recently Tsurii-sensei has...

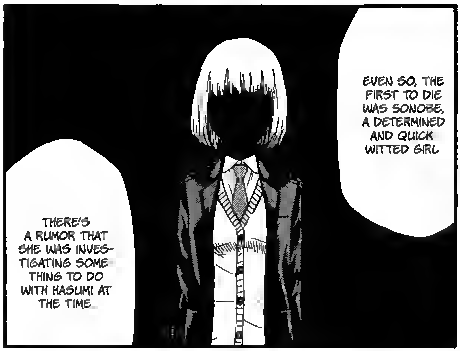

You mean-
I'M VERY GRATEFUL YOU CALLED ME ABOUT THIS
I'LL KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON TSURII-SENSEI FROM HERE ON IN
YES WELL, GOODBYE FOR NOW
Beep

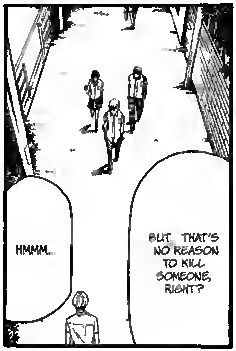
Strike while the iron is hot.

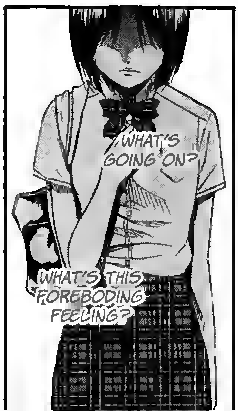
BACK TO OUR CONVERSATION FROM THIS MORNING,
I GOT IN TOUCH WITH MY FRIEND AT *** METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL AND TRIED TO SEE WHAT I COULD FIND OUT.
I WAS ABLE TO LEARN SOME THINGS FROM HIM AND SEVERAL OF HIS FRIENDS.
THE FOUR WHO KILLED THEMSELVES WERE ALL IN THE SAME GROUP AND ALWAYS HUNG OUT TOGETHER
THEY WERE ALL PRETTY SMART AND GOT HIGH GRADES
BUT APPARENTLY THEY WERE SOMEWHAT DISTRUSTING AND USUALLY KEPT TO THEMSELVES IN CLASS.
THEY ISOLATED THEMSELVES?
NO. IT SEEMS LIKE THEY STILL GOT ALONG WELL ENOUGH WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE THEIR GROUP

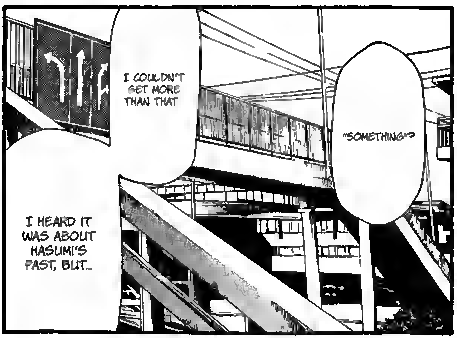
COMPARED TO ALL THE OTHER TEACHERS WHO DIDN'T CARE AT ALL OR WHO TRIED TO CONTROL THE CLASS,
HASUMI'S LESSONS WERE ENGAGING FOR THE STUDENTS,
SO HE EARNED THEIR UNWAVERING SUPPORT.
EXCEPT WHEN IT CAME TO HASUMI.
HUH?
THEY DIDN'T GIVE A REASON, BUT JUST SAID THAT HE WAS SOMEHOW SUSPICIOUS AND UNTRUSTWORTHY
DESPITE THAT, THOSE FOUR STUDENTS WERE VERY CRITICAL OF HIM.

WHAT?
THAT'S JUST LIKE US!?


EVEN SO, THE FIRST TO DIE WAS SONOBE, A DETERMINED AND QUICK WITTED GIRL
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT SHE WAS INVESTIGATING SOMETHING TO DO WITH KASUMI AT THE TIME...


HMMM...
BUT... THAT'S NO REASON TO KILL SOMEONE, RIGHT?


WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT'S THIS FOREBODING FEELING?

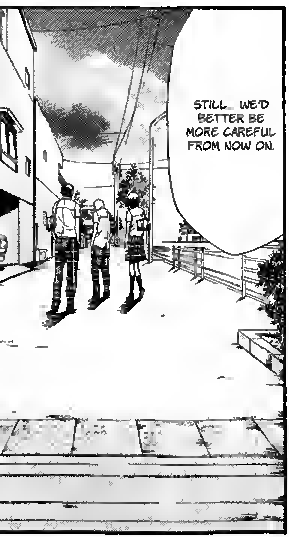

I COULDN'T GET MORE THAN THAT
"SOMETHING"?
I HEARD IT WAS ABOUT KASUMI'S PAST, BUT...

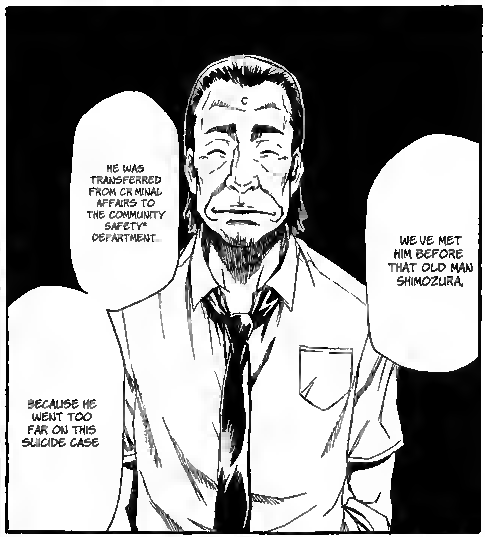
WELL,
WHY WASN'T THERE ANY DOUBT OVER THOSE DEATHS BEING SUICIDES?
WELL, ACTUALLY... THEY SAID THE POLICE DID DO A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION.
THEY EVEN PERFORMED AUTOPSIES ON ALL FOUR OF THEM.
BUT IN THE END, THEY DIDN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE MURDERED

IF HASUMI REALLY IS A PSYCHOPATH WHO MURDERED FOUR STUDENTS,

THEN... THAT PROBABLY WASN'T WHERE IT STARTED.

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT
WELL, OBVIOUSLY THEY DIDN'T, RIGHT?
FOR A START, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE,
TO KILL FOUR PEOPLE AND TO MAKE THEM ALL LOOK LIKE SUICIDES
THERE WAS ONE DETECTIVE, WHO WANTED TO INVESTIGATE,
BUT THE SCHOOL STRONGLY OBJECTED, SO THE DETECTIVE WAS FORCED TO GIVE UP.
THAT OBJECTION WAS MADE BY HASUMI AND ONE OTHER GUY, CALLED SAGAE.
SO... THAT DETECTIVE WAS THE ONLY PERSON TO QUESTION IT?
EVEN JUST ONE PERSON IS ENOUGH THOUGH.
THAT SHOWS THAT EVEN WITHIN THE POLICE THERE WERE SUSPICIONS.




HE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM CRIMINAL AFFAIRS TO THE COMMUNITY SAFETY* DEPARTMENT.
WE'VE MET HIM BEFORE THAT OLD MAN SHIMOZURA.
BECAUSE HE WENT TOO FAR ON THIS SUICIDE CASE

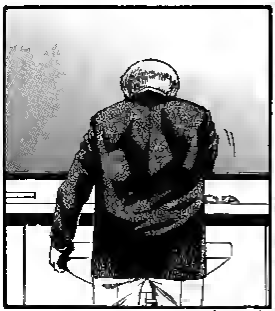
T/N: THE COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH CRIMES, AMONGST OTHER THINGS

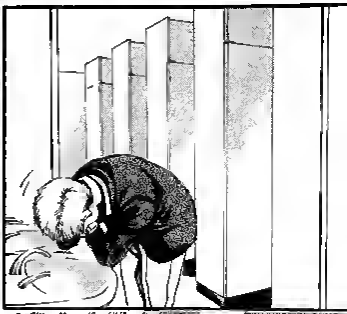
I THINK WE'RE ALREADY IN TROUBLE.
THIS IS JUST A HUNCH,
BUT...

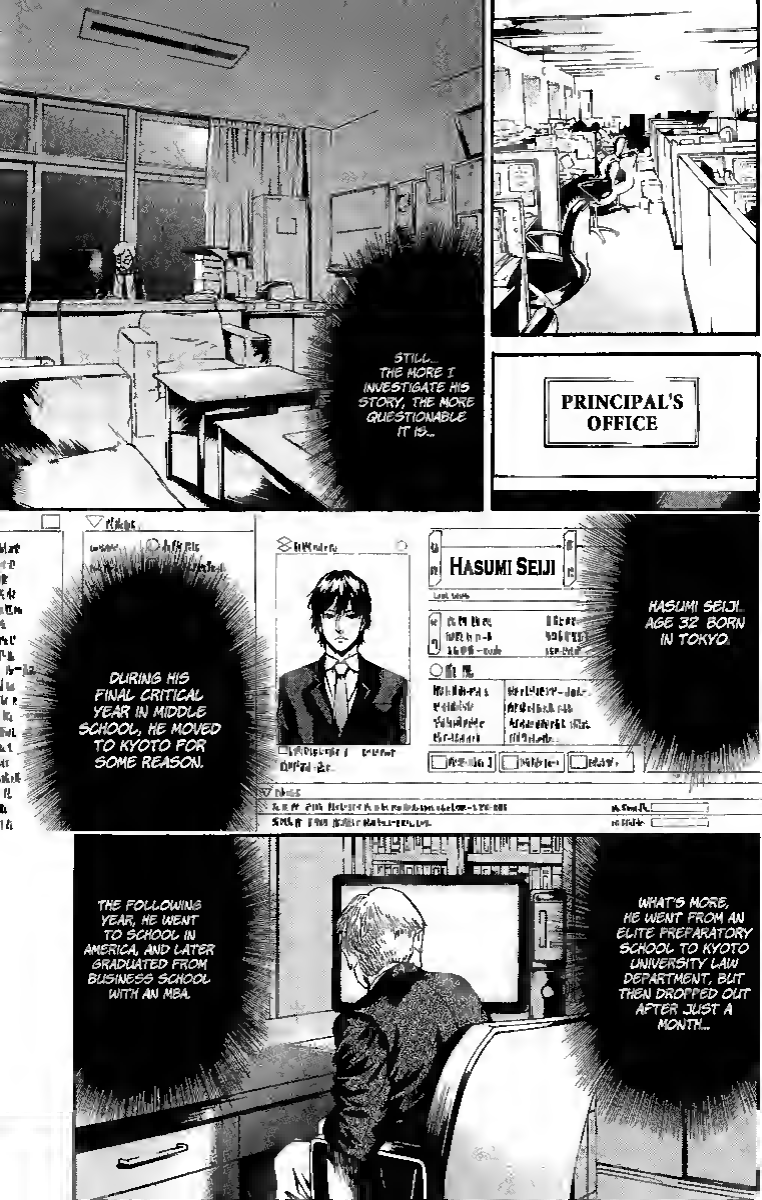
DIG AS FAST AS YOU CAN, PRINCIPAL MADAMORI
YOU'D BETTER BE FINISHED BY MIDNIGHT.
IF YOUR WIFE COMES HOME AND SEES, THERE WILL BE TROUBLE NO MATTER WHAT.
EVEN IF YOU HIDE THE BODY THE POLICE WILL EVENTUALLY FIND OUT.
The same fate? Are you threatening me—
YES, THE SAME FATE WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK THIS IS?
IF THIS GETS OUT, YOU'LL SUFFER THE SAME FATE
YOU'D BETTER NOT TALK IN YOUR SLEEP THEN

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SLEPT WITH MY WIFE.
AND THAT'S WHY IT'S ALL COME TO THIS.
AT FIRST, I PLANNED TO KILL YOU TOO...
THAT BEING SAID...
SINCE PAST CUSTOMS CALL FOR BOTH ADULTERERS TO BE STACKED TOGETHER AND DECAPITATED INTO FOUR PIECES
EVEN WHEN THIS IS OVER, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN RUN TO THE POLICE.
AFTER ALL, YOUR AFFAIR WITH KEIKO WAS THE TRIGGER TO THE MURDER.
EVEN IF YOU PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE IT'D DEFINITELY TURN INTO ONE HELL OF A SCANDAL, WOULDN'T IT?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD RUIN YOU.

I'M READY TO DESCEND INTO HELL AT ANY TIME.
BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE.

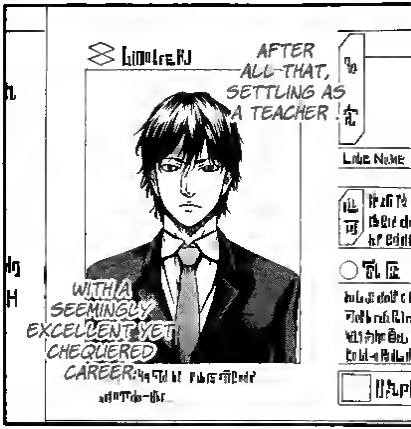





STILL... THE MORE I INVESTIGATE HIS STORY, THE MORE QUESTIONABLE IT IS...
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
DURING HIS FINAL CRITICAL YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, HE MOVED TO KYOTO FOR SOME REASON.
HASUMI SEIJI
HASUMI SEIJI. AGE 32. BORN IN TOKYO.
THE FOLLOWING YEAR, HE WENT TO SCHOOL IN AMERICA, AND LATER GRADUATED FROM BUSINESS SCHOOL WITH AN MBA.
WHAT'S MORE, HE WENT FROM AN ELITE PREPARATORY SCHOOL TO KYOTO UNIVERSITY LAW DEPARTMENT, BUT THEN DROPPED OUT AFTER JUST A MONTH...

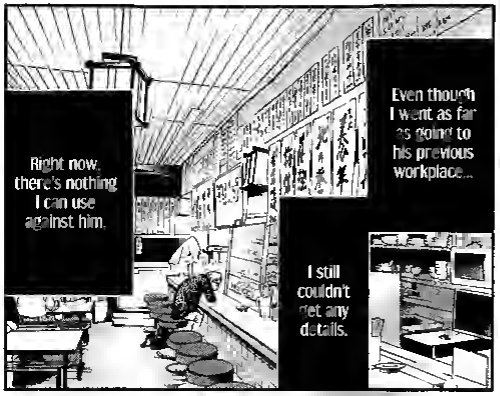
AFTER THAT, HE WORKED IN THE NORTH AMERICAN BRANCH HEADQUARTERS OF A MAJOR EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK.
BUT HE RESIGNED AFTER TWO YEARS AND RETURNED HOME.

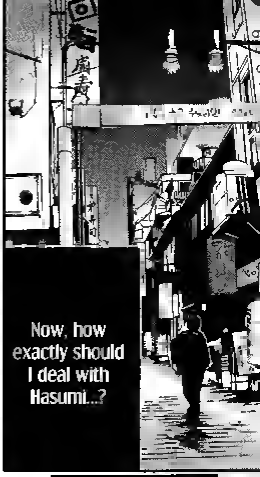
YOU'RE A CONMAN.
YOUR TRUE CHARACTER IS IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO YOUR FACADE - LIKE A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.


AFTER ALL THAT, SETTLING AS A TEACHER
WITH A SEEMINGLY EXCELLENT YET CHEQUERED CAREER.

EVEN IF YOU FOOL IDIOTS, YOU CAN'T DECEIVE ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING HERE AT SHINKOU MACHIDA.
BUT IF YOU START MAKING TROUBLE IN MY TERRITORY, YOU'LL COME TO REGRET IT.
When it comes to rulers, there is room for only one.
I'll make sure you never step into this school again.


Right now, there's nothing I can use against him.
Even though I went as far as going to his previous workplace...
I still couldn't get any details.


Now, how exactly should I deal with Hasumi...?

Wait...that Katagiri girl.
I wonder if I can make use of her.
Maybe I should try to give her some alluding advice.
Earlier, she was also digging into Hasumi's affairs.

Even if she's chewed up in the process, she'll get over it someday.
If she is able to draw suspicion towards Nasumi that will be the end for him
TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL...
I'LL PUT MY PLAN INTO ACTION RIGHT AWAY.

!?
My Conquest

Lesson12 : END

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